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Amended claims

1. (Currently Amended) An automatic cash accounting system for use in a ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital, comprising:

a message processor for receiving message data including a first income amount total value, representing cash income received during a first time period, an associated first income source identifier, ~~and a patient identifier, said first income source identifier~~ identifying one of a plurality of departments internal to said ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital providing said associated first income amount total value, ~~said patient identifier identifying said one of a plurality of patients;~~

a data processor for automatically processing said received message data for by,

identifying an income account associated with said one of said departments based on said first income source identifier, and for updating said identified income account with said first income amount total value to indicate said first income amount total value received by said identified income account during said first time period, ~~and~~

~~identifying a patient account associated with said one of a plurality of patients based on the patient identifier, and for updating said patient account with said first income amount value to indicate the first income amount received by said patient account during said first time period;~~

collating and combining data representing total values from at least one of a plurality of income accounts ~~and a plurality of patient accounts~~ to provide at least one of a first income amount total value ~~and a second income total value, respectively,~~ representing combined cash income total value for said departments ~~and for said patients, respectively,~~ during said first time period and

creating a financial statement record using said combined cash income total value for said departments during said first time period.

2. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein

~~the income amount value is a patient co-payment~~

said received message data identifies medical insurance reimbursement income amounts received for services rendered to multiple patients during said first time period and

said data processor combines said reimbursement income amounts with said cash income total value for said departments during said first time period to provide a total amount.

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3. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 2 1, wherein
said received message data is derived from a processing device
associating a user selected income source identifier with said first income amount
total value; and
said processing device provides cash register functions.

4. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein
~~said first income amount value comprises a total income received by~~
~~said one of said plurality of departments during said first time period~~
said message data includes a medical insurance reimbursement income
amount value for services rendered to a particular patient and an associated patient
identifier, and
said data processor,

identifies an income account associated with said patient based
on said patient identifier, and updates said identified patient income account to reflect
said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received and
creates said financial statement record using said combined
cash income total value and data derived from said patient income account.

5. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein
said received message data identifies a plurality of individual cash
transactions performed during said first time period and associated with a ~~healthcare~~
enterprise hospital department, and said first income amount total value comprises a
total transaction income amount value for said first time period.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 5, wherein
a transaction income amount value comprises a disbursement
comprising a negative income amount value.

7. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 5, wherein
said received message data comprises a file and
an individual cash transaction comprises an electronic funds transfer.

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8. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 5 1, wherein ~~an individual cash transaction comprises an electronic funds transfer~~ said received message data identifies medical insurance reimbursement income amounts for multiple patients, and an individual message data item includes a medical insurance reimbursement income amount value and an associated patient identifier, said patient identifier identifying one of a plurality of patients providing said associated medical reimbursement income amount,

said data processor identifies an income account associated with said one of said patients based on said patient identifier, and updates said identified income account to indicate said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received and

creates said financial statement record using said combined cash income total value and data derived from said patient income account.

9. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said received message data identifies a plurality of individual cash transactions performed during said first time period and associated with a ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital department, and said first income amount total value comprises a transaction income amount value, and

said data processor accumulates a plurality of individual cash transaction income amount values for transactions performed during said first time period for said ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital department to provide a cumulative total value for said first time period.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said source identifier incorporates an account number identifying said income account associated with said one of said departments.

11. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said data processor updates an account for the overall ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital in response to said first income amount total value representing combined cash income for said departments for said first time period.

12. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 11, wherein said data processor further updates an account for a plurality of ~~healthcare enterprises~~ hospitals including said ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital in response to said first income amount total value representing combined cash income for said departments for said first time period.

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13. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein
said ~~data processor initiates generation of a report~~ said financial
statement record identifying-identifies at least one of, (a) a total income received by
individual departments of said plurality of departments during said first time period,
(b) total income received by individual departments of said plurality of departments
during said first time period deposited in a bank, and (c) individual cash transactions
performed during said first time period by individual ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital
departments.

14. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein
said first time period comprises at least one of: (i) a day, (ii) a week,
(iii) a month, and (iv) a year, and
said plurality of departments internal to said ~~healthcare enterprise~~
hospital include at least two of, (a) a cafeteria, (b) a garage, (c) a shop, (d) a
pharmacy, (e) a café or restaurant, (f) cashiers office, (g) a clinical department, (h) an
outpatient department, (i) an inpatient department, (j) an imaging department, and (k)
a laboratory.

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15. (Currently Amended) An automatic cash accounting system for use in a healthcare enterprise, comprising:

a message processor for receiving a plurality of messages corresponding to a plurality of individual cash transactions performed during a first time period and associated with a ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital department, and an individual message includes a transaction income amount total value and an associated first source identifier, ~~said first source identifier~~ identifying one of a plurality of departments internal to said ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital providing said associated transaction income amount value;

a data processor for processing said received plurality of messages for, identifying an income account associated with said one of said departments based on said first income source identifier, and for updating said identified income account to indicate said transaction income amount total value received during said first period,

accumulating a plurality of individual cash transaction income amount total values for transactions performed during said first time period for said ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital department to provide a cumulative total value for said first time period, and

collating and combining cumulative total values associated with a corresponding plurality of departments to provide a first income amount total value representing combined cash income for said departments during said first time period and

creating a financial statement record using said combined cash income total value for said departments during said first time period.

16. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 15, wherein said received plurality of messages comprise a file, and said individual message is conveyed within said file and

said messages include a medical insurance reimbursement income amount value for services rendered to a particular patient and an associated patient identifier, and

said data processor,

identifies an income account associated with said patient based on said patient identifier, and updates said identified patient income account to reflect said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received and

creates said financial statement record using said combined cash income total value and data derived from said patient income account.

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17. (Currently Amended) A cash accounting system for use in a ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital, comprising:

a message processor for,

receiving message data including a first income amount total value determining income received during a first time period and an associated first source identifier, said first source identifier identifying one of a plurality of departments internal to said ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital providing said associated first income amount total value, and

receiving message data including a second income amount total value determining income received during said first time period and an associated second source identifier, said second source identifier identifying one of a plurality of organizations external to said ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital providing said associated second income amount total value; and

a data processor for collating and combining a plurality of first income amount total values from a corresponding plurality of departments to provide a first income amount cumulative total value representing combined cash income for said departments for said first time period, and for collating and combining a plurality of second income amount total values from a corresponding plurality of organizations to provide a second income amount cumulative total value representing combined cash income from said organizations for said first time period and

creating a financial statement record using said cumulative total value representing combined cash income for said departments and said second income amount cumulative total value for said first time period.

18. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said first time period comprises at least one of, (i) a day, (ii) a week, (iii) a month and (iv) a year, and

said plurality of departments internal to said ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital include at least two of, (a) a cafeteria, (b) a garage, (c) a shop, (d) a pharmacy, (e) a café or restaurant, (f) cashiers office, (g) a clinical department, (h) an outpatient department, (i) an inpatient department.

19. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said data processor combines said ~~first income amount total and said second income amount total~~ cumulative total value representing combined cash income for said departments and said second income amount cumulative total value for said first time period to derive a value representing combined cash income for said ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital during said first time period.

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20. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said plurality of organizations external to said ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital include at least two organizations of, (a) a health maintenance organization (HMO), (b) an insurance company, (c) a patient, (d) a debt collection agency, (e) another healthcare provider enterprise.

21. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said message data including said first income amount total value is received from at least one of, (a) a cash register, and (b) a processing device with cash register functions.

22. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein ~~said first income amount value comprises a total income received by said one of said plurality of departments during said first time period~~
said received message data identifies medical insurance reimbursement income amounts for multiple patients, and an individual message data item includes a medical insurance reimbursement income amount value and an associated patient identifier, said patient identifier identifying one of a plurality of patients providing said associated medical reimbursement income amount,
said data processor identifies an income account associated with said one of said patients based on said patient identifier, and updates said identified income account to indicate said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received and
creates said financial statement record using data derived from said patient income account.

23. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said message data identifies a plurality of individual cash transactions performed during a first time period and associated with a ~~healthcare enterprise~~ hospital department, and said first income amount total value comprises a total transaction income amount value during said first time period.

24. (Original) A system according to claim 23, wherein a transaction income amount value comprises a disbursement comprising a negative income amount value.

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25. (Original) A system according to claim 17, wherein said received message data comprises a file.

26. (Currently Amended) An automatic cash accounting system for use in a healthcare enterprise, comprising:

a message processor for receiving message data including a first income amount total value determining income received during a first time period and an associated first source identifier, said first source identifier identifying one of a plurality of departments internal to said hospital providing said associated first income amount total value, said message data also indicating a plurality of individual cash transactions performed during a said first time period and associated with multiple patients, and an individual message data item includes a transaction income amount value and an associated first transaction income source identifier, said first transaction income source identifier identifying one of a plurality of patients providing said associated transaction income amount value;

a data processor for identifying an income account associated with said one of said patients based on said first transaction income source identifier, and for updating said identified income account to indicate said transaction income amount value received by said identified income account during said first time period and for creating a financial statement record using said hospital department first income amount total value and said transaction income amount value for said first time period.

27. (Original) A system according to claim 26, wherein said received message data comprises a file.

28. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 26, wherein said received message data identifies medical insurance reimbursement income amounts for multiple patients for services rendered to said multiple patients in said first time period, and an individual message data item includes a medical insurance reimbursement income amount value and an associated patient identifiers, said patient identifier identifying one of a plurality of patients providing said associated medical reimbursement income amount, and

said data processor identifies ~~an~~ income accounts associated with said ~~one of said~~ multiple patients based on said associated patient identifiers, and updates said identified income accounts to indicate said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received.

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29. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 26 28, wherein said data processor combines said hospital department first income amount total value and said transaction income amount value and said medical insurance reimbursement income amounts for multiple patients in creating said financial statement record ~~transaction income amount value received with said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received for said one of said patients, and updates said identified account to indicate said combined amount.~~

30. (Original) A system according to claim 26, wherein said received message data identifies a single medical insurance reimbursement income amount for multiple patients, and identifies a source organization of said reimbursement income amount, and

said data processor identifies an organization income account associated with said source organization, and updates said organization income account to indicate said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received.